



Montana

Department of Labor and Industry

Commissioner's Office

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MONTANA UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DROPS BY 0.3%

HELENA, Mont. --- Montana saw a decline of 0.3% in the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate between May and June. The state's rate now sits at 3.5%, which continues a trend of near record lows for the series. Employment grew by 1,100 jobs over the same time period, signaling further tightening in the state's labor market.

"Overall, Montana's economy was strong in June," said Commissioner Keith Kelly. "However, rising costs of petroleum nationally are taking a toll on the heavy construction and accommodations industries. For Montana it means record high asphalt prices stalling work on America's roadways and less travelers fueling up for the journey."

Government showed the largest increase in employment, adding 600 jobs in June. Manufacturing, Information**, Financial Activities, Professional and Business Services, and Other Services** each showed an additional 200 positions. Natural Resources and Mining and Trade, Transportation, and Utilities recorded no change in employment, while Construction and Leisure and Hospitality each saw a decline of 200 jobs. Education and Health Services** recorded the largest decline in jobs at 600, however this was expected given the end of the school year in June.

Additional information related to this employment situation press release can be found by visiting the Research and Analysis website at www.ourfactsyourfuture.org

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**Unemployment figures are seasonally-adjusted. Seasonally-adjusted numbers remove the effects of events that follow a more or less regular month-to-month pattern each year. These adjustments make nonseasonal patterns easier to identify. The margin of error for the unemployment rate is plus or minus 0.8 percentage points at the 90 percent confidence level. All questions relating to the calculation of unemployment rates should be directed to Tyler Turner, Economist with the Montana Department of Labor and Industry's Research and Analysis Bureau.*

***These industry sectors are not-seasonally adjusted.*

******* INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET *******

County unemployment rates are also available in our monthly economic bulletin, *Montana Economy at a Glance*, and on our website.

Labor Force data for Montana Indian Reservations is available on the Research and Analysis Bureau's website at:
www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/?PAGEID=67&SUBID=121

The June 2006 Labor Situation Report will be released Friday, August 18, 2006.